

~~T O P S E C R E T~~ SENSITIVE 171555Z AUG 72 EXCLUSIVELY EYES
ONLY VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

FROM: WHITE HOUSE

TO: AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CITE: WHS2129

TOHAK 56

AUGUST 17, 1972

FOR: KISSINGER

FROM: HAIG

REFERENCE HAKTO 15. REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 1, DEFENSE WAS
TOLD ON MONDAY THAT THEY WERE AUTHORIZED ONE TIME STRIKE ON
BRIDGES IN BUFFER ZONE. I AM CALLING AGAIN TODAY TO BE SURE THAT
FIELD HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED. REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 2, I WILL ASK
ZIEGLER TO WORK IN POINT ON AUGUST 3 CANCELLATION AT FIRST
GRACEFUL OPPORTUNITY. REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 3, WILL DO. (Beam *J Moscow note for MBFR/ES*)

REFERENCE HAKTO 13. REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 1, I CAN ASSURE
YOU NOTHING WILL BE DONE ON DEFECTOR PROBLEM BEYOND SHARING
INFORMATION WITH HELMS AND THINKING ABOUT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.
REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 2, ZIEGLER HAS BEEN CAUTIONED AGAIN. I
HAVE SENT OUT WRITTEN DIRECTIVE TO CABINET OFFICERS IN PRESIDENT'S
NAME TURNING OFF ANY FURTHER SPECULATION. REFERENCE PARAGRAPH

(private talks)

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

3, BEST ESTIMATE HERE ON INTERIM AGREEMENT IS 15 SEPTEMBER. SENATE IS OBVIOUSLY WAITING FOR HOUSE TO ACT. WE HAVE PREVENTED STRATTON FROM TABLING AMENDMENT SIMILAR TO JACKSON'S SO THAT HOUSE WILL VOTE CLEAN ENDORSEMENT. THIS WILL PUT FURTHER PRESSURE ON SENATE TO ACT. ESTIMATE IS THAT JACKSON HAS VOTES TO WIN BUT SINCE DOVES DOMINATE CONFERENCE, ULTIMATE PACKAGE WILL BE APPROVED WITHOUT JACKSON AMENDMENT. WE HAVE HAD DAILY MEETINGS ON THIS TO INSURE ALL ARE SPEAKING WITH SINGLE VOICE. GENERAL ESTIMATE IS THAT FLURRY HAS ABOUT RUN ITS COURSE AND THE CHANCES ARE THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE THROUGH AS OUTLINED ABOVE WITHOUT TOO MUCH MORE BLOOD BEING SPILLED. YESTERDAY, HELMS' MAN BRIEFED FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO THE EFFECT THAT SOVIETS DID NOT LIE AND I HOPE THIS SIDE ISSUE HAS BEEN PUT TO REST AS WELL. REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 4, WILL DO. (Fairbanks write) REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 5, BROWNELL ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE YESTERDAY. I BROUGHT BROWNELL AND RABASA TOGETHER IN EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING. PROJECT SEEMS PROPERLY LAUNCHED. I UNDERSTOOD RABASA WAS SOMEWHAT DISTURBED AT YOUR SUDDEN DEPARTURE AND FAILURE TO CONTACT HIM SO I GAVE HIM BRIEF WARM MESSAGE FROM YOU,

POINTING OUT THE DIFFICULTY YOU WERE FACED WITH. HE WAS
DELIGHTED. REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 6, WILL DO AND WILL CONFIRM.

*(Granddave
breakfast)*

EARLY PRESS PLAY HERE INDICATES THIEU REBUFFED YOU ON
REQUEST FOR INITIAL MEETING, EMPHASIZING THIS REFLECTS GVN
DISSATISFACTION WITH CURRENT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS. YOU MAY
WISH TO CONTRIVE APPROPRIATE MEANS OF COUNTERING THIS THEME.

WARM REGARDS.